

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, and 17 are independent. Claims 2 through 16 and 21 depend from claim 1. Claims 18 through 20 depend from claim 17.

Applicant expresses appreciation that claims 1 through 16 are allowed. Applicant notes receipt of the Reasons for Allowance in the pending Action. In response, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 through 16 of the instant application are allowable for the reasons set forth in the specification. Any statements set forth by the Office in the Reasons for Allowance, which differ from that previously stated by applicant in the specification and response filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office form no basis for allowance and therefore provides no grounds for application of the Doctrine of Prosecution History Estoppel in the construction of the allowed claims.

In the Action, claims 17 through 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, claims 17 and 20 were objected to as having an improper dependency. Applicant has amended claims 17 through 20 and has added new claim 21 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Moreover, applicant has amended claims 14 through 16 to remove any reference to abbreviations of claimed elements. These abbreviations were previously referenced by the applicant in the specification at page 4, lines 5 through 12. No new matter has been added.

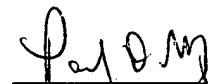
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It is applicant's belief that claims 1 through 21 are all in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that the application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Paul D. Greeley, Esq.
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicant
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
(203) 327-4500